



## **Intergenerational Forum: Mutual exchange 'inside' and 'outside' the room March 2025 Forum summary**

### **Quick recap**

The meeting focused on intergenerational art projects and community engagement initiatives, with participants sharing experiences and strategies for fostering connections across age groups. Discussions covered various projects, including film-making, mural painting, and creative workshops, highlighting the importance of creating inclusive spaces and maintaining relationships beyond project durations. Participants also explored challenges in community engagement and brainstormed methods to improve participation and sustain connections, emphasizing the value of open communication and adaptable approaches.

### **Summary**

#### **Art and Intergenerational Connection Building**

The group discusses the theme of mutual exchange and building connections through art, both inside and outside the delivery room. Audrey introduces Magic Me, an intergenerational charity that brings different ages together through various art forms. She highlights some of their projects, including [Cocktails in Care Homes](#) and mural painting. Audrey also describes a current project called [Spark](#), which trains care home staff to incorporate creativity into their work with residents. The session then moves to an interactive exercise where participants are asked to sketch or express what they hope to bring to or get from the day's session.

#### **Mulberry Project: Empowering Female Heroes**

The group discusses a project called the Mulberry Project, which involved creating a [film](#) about local female heroes and inspirational figures. Audrey explains that the project connected young girls from Mulberry School and Connaught School for Girls with older adults, resulting in a collaborative film. David then shares a portion of the film, which showcases various historical and contemporary female heroes, including Rosa Parks, Mary Wollstonecraft, and local activists. The film emphasizes the importance of learning from past women's struggles and continuing their legacy of fighting for equal rights.

## Film Project and Creative Mix

Audrey discussed a film project that focused on pay, women's safety, and period poverty. The project brought together students from two different schools and women from other projects, resulting in strong connections and increased confidence among participants. Audrey also introduced the [Creative Mix](#) project, a three-year initiative sponsored by Tower Hamlets Council, which aimed to reconnect with the local community and utilize available space for activities. The project involved partnerships with Gateway Housing Association and Mulberry UTC, and initially focused on developing a group before transitioning to intergenerational gatherings. Audrey encouraged participants to think about ways to support and challenge biases in their own projects.

## Building and Sustaining Community Connections

In the meeting, R expressed her passion for building connections and maintaining them after projects. She emphasized the importance of providing resources and funding to support community connections. Audrey agreed, noting that the project's duration could impact the sustainability of connections. O suggested creating a cake event to foster connections across different age groups. R proposed focusing on human connections rather than age differences. J shared her project's success in developing quality indicators for intergenerational practice, highlighting the importance of awareness of age differences. Audrey encouraged others to share their experiences.

## Intergenerational Collaboration: Creating Equal Spaces

The group discusses approaches to create an equal space for all participants in intergenerational projects. S reports that her breakout room did not see age as a significant issue in this context. O expresses that the group gives him hope for intergenerational collaboration, feeling that they are "in the same boat" and working together. The discussion highlights the importance of creating a third point of focus to avoid participants focusing on age differences.

## Creating Safe and Inclusive Group Activities

S discusses creating a safe and inclusive environment for group activities. She suggests using icebreakers, such as sharing personal information and interests, to help participants connect. Priyanka then shares her experience with a project called "Roots and Routes," which aimed to bring together diverse community groups. Despite extensive outreach efforts, the project experienced some challenges in terms of growing the attendee numbers, highlighting the challenges of community engagement. The discussion concludes with R suggesting the use

of community WhatsApp groups as a tool for maintaining connections and facilitating ongoing communication among participants after projects end.

### Strategies for Engaging Community Program Participants

The forum discusses strategies for engaging and retaining participants in community programs. Audrey and Priyanka from Magic Me share their experiences, including using WhatsApp groups and offering consistent programming. Participants suggest various approaches like creating Telegram channels, offering "Come Meet" events to build community connections, and using pre-session forms to understand participant needs. The importance of building relationships with stakeholders and appreciating small turnouts is emphasized. The session concludes with participants expressing appreciation for the open sharing of challenges and successes in community engagement.